

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Originating

House Bill 4674

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[Originating in the Committee on Government
Organization; Reported on February 21, 2016]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17C-15-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
2 relating to motor vehicle back-up lamps.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §17C-15-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and
2 reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 15. EQUIPMENT.

§17C-15-19. Additional lighting equipment.

1 (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or fender lamps
2 which shall emit an amber or white light without glare.

3 (b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one running board courtesy
4 lamp on each side thereof which shall emit a white or amber light without glare.

5 (c) ~~Except for school buses as provided in this subsection, any~~ All motor vehicle vehicles
6 ~~may shall~~ be equipped with ~~not more than~~ a minimum of at least two functioning back-up lamps
7 either separately or in combination with other lamps, unless the vehicle was originally equipped
8 with one lamp. ~~but any~~ Any such back-up lamp shall not be lighted when the motor vehicle is in
9 forward motion. School buses used for the transportation of school children in this state, whether
10 owned and operated by a county board of education or privately owned and operated under
11 contract with a county Board of Education, shall be equipped with at least two back-up lamps,
12 one on each side of the rear door, with white lens or reflectors, capable of lighting the roadway
13 and objects to the rear of the bus for safe backing during darkness, and which, at the option of
14 the county board of education, may each provide fifty candlepower in illumination intensity instead
15 of thirty-two candlepower.

16 (d) Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps which may be used for the purpose of warning
17 the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise
18 of unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing, and when so equipped may display such
19 warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this article. The lamps used to display

20 such warning to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as
21 practicable and shall display simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color
22 between white and amber. The lamps used to display such warning to the rear shall be mounted
23 at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously
24 flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red.

25 (e) Vehicles used by "rural mail carriers" in carrying or delivering mail in rural areas may
26 be equipped with amber flashing lights. Such lights shall be on the front and rear of the vehicle
27 and may be activated when the vehicle is stopped or decreasing speed in order to stop in the
28 course of carrying, delivering or picking up mail along the route.

29 (f) Vehicles used as the lead car in a funeral procession are hereby authorized to be
30 equipped with, but are not required to use, purple lamps or purple flashing lights. Such lamps may
31 be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular
32 traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing a
33 funeral procession, and when so equipped may display such warning in addition to any other
34 warning signals required by this article. The lamps or flashing lights used to display such warning
35 to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and
36 shall display simultaneously either illuminated or flashing purple lights. The lamps used to display
37 such warning to the rear shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as
38 practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing or illuminated purple light

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require motor vehicles to have at least two functioning back-up lamps unless they were manufactured having only one.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.